

TRAVEL NOTES

Urban Atmospheric Observatory (UAO) Planning Meeting 18 Feb 2004

GISS: The NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies is located in the Morningside Heights-Columbia University neighborhood of New York City, at the corner of West 112th St. and Broadway. Our building, officially Columbia University's Armstrong Hall, is shown here. If you watched the NBC-TV program Seinfeld, you may recognize our corner from the exterior shots of the diner where Jerry and crowd hang out. The restaurant is Tom's Restaurant, and GISS occupies five of the building's seven floors. The entrance is on 112th Street. Reference: <http://www.giss.nasa.gov/about/visiting/> (A map can be found here.)

The Hotel Beacon: 2130 Broadway at 75th Street, New York, NY 10023
Telephone: 212-787-1100 •Fax: 212-724-0839
Toll Free Reservations USA & Canada 800-572-4969 •[Email Us](#)

One of New York's most desirable neighborhoods: the Upper West Side. Convenient to Lincoln Center, the American Museum of Natural History, Rose Center for Earth and Space, Central Park, the Theater District and Midtown shopping. Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues are known for their trendy restaurants and outdoor cafes. Overlooking Broadway and the Hudson River to the west, with Central Park to the east, or the bright lights of midtown to the south, each Hotel Beacon room affords a different Manhattan view

<http://www.beaconhotel.com/> (A map can be found here)

Ruby Foos Restaurant, Monday night: 2182 Broadway (btw. 77th and 78th streets)
Telephone: 212-724-6700.
<http://www.nyc.com/resto.aspx?c=6&e=restoName&n=Ruby+Foos&rid=1258>

This is a very special pan-asian restaurant near the Beacon Hotel. We will have a group dinner there on Monday evening.

Airports

LaGuardia Airport: Probably the best way to get from LaGuardia into Manhattan is to use a taxi. There is a fixed price of \$35 plus tip. Check around and you can probably find someone to share the cost. Buses are available of course as are the “independent” cars, but you are best advised to take a regular Yellow Cab.

JFK Airport: Taxis will be a bit more, but still reasonable considering the distance. However, the *AirTrain* is now running. You can take the AirTrain to a subway for \$5 and then connect in to the subways or you can go to Jamaica train station and take the Long Island Railroad into Penn Station. Also, from the Jamaica Station you can pick up a subway, the E or the V, right into Manhattan.

Newark Airport: The train runs directly from Newark Airport to Penn Station. This is a good choice.

McArthur, Islip, Airport: Southwest Airlines comes into Islip Airport so some of you might be using this sort of economy. From the airport, take a taxi to the *Ronkonkoma* train station for about \$12. That’s a rip off, but there might be a bus. The train station is on the north side of the airport so is a quick drive. The train from Ronkonkoma to Penn Station leaves hourly and takes 1 hr 15 min.

Subway

#1 Local: The no. 1 subway is a local train. “Local” means it stops at all stops. You can take the train from Penn Station *uptown* (northward). The train stops at 72nd street. Get off here and walk north on Broadway to the Beacon Hotel at 75th street. Take the same subway uptown to 110th street and walk to the GISS laboratory at 112th.

#2 Express: The no. 2 subway is an express and express stops are identified on the subway maps as an open circle. Type A personalities can take a 2 train uptown to the 72nd Street stop then catch the 1 local.

Running and exercise

Riverbank for swimming. Riverbank is a PUBLIC indoor 50 meter pool. It costs only \$2.00, for which price you get a locker key. Bring your own towel, shampoo, soap. They have kickboards and other training toys. It opens at 6:30 am, and is always empty at that hour! Take the 1 or 9 train to 137th Street and walk one block to the river.

Can't miss it. It's a HUGE complex. The pool building is on the other side of the outdoor track, set directly over the Hudson.

For running or walking, Riverside Park is gorgeous and renovated and is a four mile run: starts at 155th St. and goes down to 68th St. Gorgeous run in the Hudson River. It's a total of 323 acres.

Walking in Central Park. To the East of Broadway are the American Museum of Natural History and Central Park. Central Park is a treasure and perfectly safe-during the day. It is a terrific place to walk or run. Ice skating is available as are one of the nicest children's zoos you will see.

Belvedere Castle: The NWS station at Belvedere Castle is directly in the middle of Central Park and in line with 79th Street and the AMNH. This is one the first climate weather stations.

A few URLs

NASA GISS <http://www.giss.nasa.gov/>

The Hotel Beacon <http://www.beaconhotel.com/>

St. John the Divine <http://www.stjohndivine.org/> (near GISS. Don't miss.)

City Search <http://newyork.citysearch.com/>

Long Island Railroad <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/lirr>

American Museum of Natural History <http://www.amnh.org/>

Metropolitan Opera <http://www.metopera.org/>

Lincoln Center <http://www.lincolncenter.org/index2.asp>

Carnegie Hall <http://www.carnegiehall.org/intro.jsp>

Town Hall <http://www.the-townhall-nyc.org/>